

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 7 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at the first end thereof.

3. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 7 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at a point intermediate the first and second ends thereof.

4. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~Claim 1~~ claim 7 additionally comprising a sheath disposed about the exterior of the housing.

5. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~ claim 7 additionally comprising an ignition device disposed within the housing and substantially extending between the first and seconds ends thereof.

6. (currently amended) An ~~The~~ inflator device of ~~claim 1~~ for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the inflator device comprising:
an enclosed housing having an elongated length and opposed first and second ends;

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a quantity of a gas generant material disposed within the housing, the gas generant material having a non-gaseous, fluid form and substantially extending between the first and second ends of the housing; and

an initiator device disposed adjacent the housing, upon actuation, the initiator device having a discharge portion in reaction initiating contact with at least a portion of the quantity of the gas generant material disposed within the housing;

wherein upon actuation, the initiator device initiates reaction of the gas generant material to produce inflation gas and

wherein the housing has sufficient flexibility to permit the inflator device to be shaped to a non-linear elongated axis form.

7. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The inflator device of claim 1 for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the inflator device comprising:

an enclosed housing having an elongated length and opposed first and second ends;

a quantity of a gas generant material disposed within the housing, the gas generant material having a non-gaseous, fluid form and substantially extending between the first and second ends of the housing; and

an initiator device disposed adjacent the housing, upon actuation, the initiator device having a discharge portion in reaction initiating contact with at least a portion of the quantity of the gas generant material disposed within the housing;

wherein upon actuation, the initiator device initiates reaction of the gas generant material to produce inflation gas and

wherein the gas generant material contains a quantity of sensitizing gas.

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8. (Original) The inflator device of claim 7 wherein the sensitizing gas is selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide and mixtures thereof.

9. (Original) The inflator device of claim 7 wherein the sensitizing gas comprises nitrous oxide.

10. (Original) The inflator device of claim 7 wherein the sensitizing gas comprises carbon dioxide.

11. (Original) The inflator device of claim 7 wherein the sensitizing gas comprises a combustible mixture.

12. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~
claim 7 wherein the gas generant material is in the form of a liquid.

13. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~
claim 7 wherein the gas generant material is in the form of a paste.

14. (currently amended) The inflator device of ~~claim 1~~
claim 7 wherein the housing is tubular.

15. (Original) The inflator device of claim 14 wherein the tubular housing is of circular cross section.

Claim 16 (canceled)

17. (Original) An inflator device for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the inflator device comprising:

a tubular housing having an elongated length and opposed first and second ends;

a quantity of a gas generant material disposed within the tubular housing, the gas generant material having a non-gaseous, fluid form and substantially extending between the first and second ends of the tubular housing, the gas generant material containing a quantity of sensitizing gas selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide and mixtures thereof;

an initiator device disposed adjacent the tubular housing, upon actuation, the initiator device having a discharge portion in reaction initiating contact with at least a portion of the quantity of the gas generant material disposed within the tubular housing; and

a sheath covering disposed about the exterior of the tubular housing;

wherein upon actuation, the initiator device initiates reaction of the gas generant material to produce inflation gas resulting in opening of the tubular housing and release of at least a portion of the inflation gas therefrom and wherein the sheath covering is effective to retain therewithin fragmentary portions of the tubular housing formed upon the opening thereof.

18. (Original) The inflator device of claim 17 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at the first end thereof.

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19. (Original) The inflator device of claim 17 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at a point intermediate the first and second ends thereof.

20. (Original) The inflator device of claim 17 wherein the tubular housing has sufficient flexibility to permit the inflator device to be shaped to a non-linear elongated axis form.

Claims 21-25 (Canceled)

26. (currently amended) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of ~~claim 4~~ claim 7.

27. (previously presented) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of claim 8.

28. (previously presented) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of claim 17.

29. (previously presented) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of claim 18.

30. (previously presented) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of claim 19.

31. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at the first end thereof.

32. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the initiator device is disposed adjacent the housing at a point intermediate the first and second ends thereof.

33. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 additionally comprising a sheath disposed about the exterior of the housing.

34. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 additionally comprising an ignition device disposed within the housing and substantially extending between the first and second ends thereof.

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35. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the gas generant material contains a quantity of sensitizing gas.

36. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the gas generant material is in the form of a liquid.

37. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the gas generant material is in the form of a paste.

38. (New) The inflator device of claim 6 wherein the housing is tubular.

39. (New) The inflator device of claim 38 wherein the tubular housing is of circular cross section.

40. (New) A method for inflating an inflatable restraint element, the method comprising:

initiating reaction of the gas generant material disposed within the housing of the inflator device of claim 6.